

REMARKS

Status of claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for the consideration given to the present application. Claims 1-42 and 50-73 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 43-49 have been amended. Particularly, Claim 48 has been amended to include all of the limitations of Claim 42 along with its limitations. Claims 43-47 and 49 have been amended to correct their dependency. Applicants do not concede the propriety of Examiner's rejections, but merely to expedite prosecution are presenting the amendments herein and canceling the claims herein. Applicants reserve the right to pursue, and submit that nothing herein should be construed as a waiver of this right, the claim scope in the canceled claims in either the present application and/or in other continuation or divisional applications. Thus, nothing herein should be construed as a waiver of such scope. Support for these amendments is found in the specification and figures. No new matter has been added.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 63 and 64 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In order to expedite prosecution, Applicant's have canceled Claims 64 and 64 without prejudice. Again, Applicant's respectfully submit that by these cancellations they are not conceding to the propriety of the rejections. Therefore, Applicant's further submit that this rejection is moot.

Rejections Under 35 USC §102 and §103

Claims 42, 43, 69 and 70 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Guichaoua et al. (US 6,308,836). Claims 42, 43 and 45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Masaaki (JP 2003053336). Claims 47, 50, 54, 57, 59 60, 62-66, 68 and 73 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guichaoua et al. (US 6,308,836). Claims 44, 45, 51, 52 and 71 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guichaoua et al. (US 6,308,836) in view of Gundrum et al. (US 5,891,334). Claims 46, 49, 53, 55, 58 and 72 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Guichaoua et al. (US 6,308,836) in view of Reid et al. (US 5,591,332). Claim 56 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guichaoua et al. (US 6,308,836) in view of Reid (US 6,274,038). Claims 44, 47, 50-52, 54, 56, 57, 59, 60, 63-66 and 73 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masaaki (JP 2003053336). Claims 62, 69, 70 and 72 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masaaki (JP 2003053336) in view of Guichaoua et al. (US 6,308,836). Claims 46, 49, 53, 55 and 58 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masaaki (JP 2003053336) in view of Reid et al. (US 5,591,332). Claim 71 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable Masaaki (JP 2003053336) in view of Gundrum et al. (US 5,891,334).

Applicant's respectfully traverse these rejections. However, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant's have canceled without prejudice Claims 42 and 50-73, have amended Claim 48 in order to rewrite it in independent form and to include the limitations of Claim 42 (as suggested by the Examiner), and amended Claims 43-47 and 49 to depend from allowable Claim 48. Thus, Applicant's submit that these rejections are moot and respectfully request them to be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that Claim 48, if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of Claim 42, would be allowable. Applicant's have amended Claim 48 as such and canceled without prejudice Claim 42. Accordingly, Applicant's submit Claim 48 is in condition for allowance, and all claims (Claims 43-47 and 49) dependent thereon.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve efficiently any formal matters or to discuss any aspects of the application or of this response. Otherwise, early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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